

KANSAS GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM

Overview – Nancy Mayberry, Interim Executive Director
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Legal advocacy with dignity and respect

KGP

Every year many adult Kansans experience diminished capacity and become unable to make informed decisions regarding their lives and finances.

For those who do not have willing and able family members to assist them, the court can appoint fellow citizens as a guardian or conservator.

The Kansas Guardianship Program recruits citizen volunteers who are willing to be appointed as a guardian or conservator.

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- volunteer-based program providing guardianship or conservatorship services
- recruit and train citizen volunteers to serve as court appointed guardians or conservators
- collaboration between the State and KGP
- funded through the State of Kansas

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❖ REFERRALS

- Kansas Department for Children and Family Services (APS)
- KDADS State Hospital social workers

❖ Eligibility Criteria for Potential Ward or Conservatee

- Adult
- Medicaid
- No family able or appropriate to serve
- Open case with DCF of ANE or individual in KDADS facility

❖ Petitioning the Court

- DCF legal services and Attorneys for State Hospitals

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Volunteer Screening Process Through Court Appointment

- ✓ Application, references, criminal background check, interview and notification screening criteria is met
- ✓ Conflict of Interest Guideline
- ✓ Matching and Nomination process
- ✓ Training, Monitoring, Support and Assistance Provided

KGP Training Support & Assistance

ADVOCACY

**COURT • LEGAL ISSUES • ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COURT
Required Basic Instructions and Affidavit**

INCOME, BENEFITS, FINANCIAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT FOR SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

STATE AGENCIES [DCF, KDADS, KDHE]

MONITORING CARE, SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION (ANE)

FUNERAL AND BURIAL PLANNING

KGP PROCEDURES • PAPERWORK

KGP

1183 different individuals served in FY 2024

710 volunteers serving as guardians or conservators

Serve individuals with:

- Intellectual/developmental disabilities

- Mental and Behavioral Health

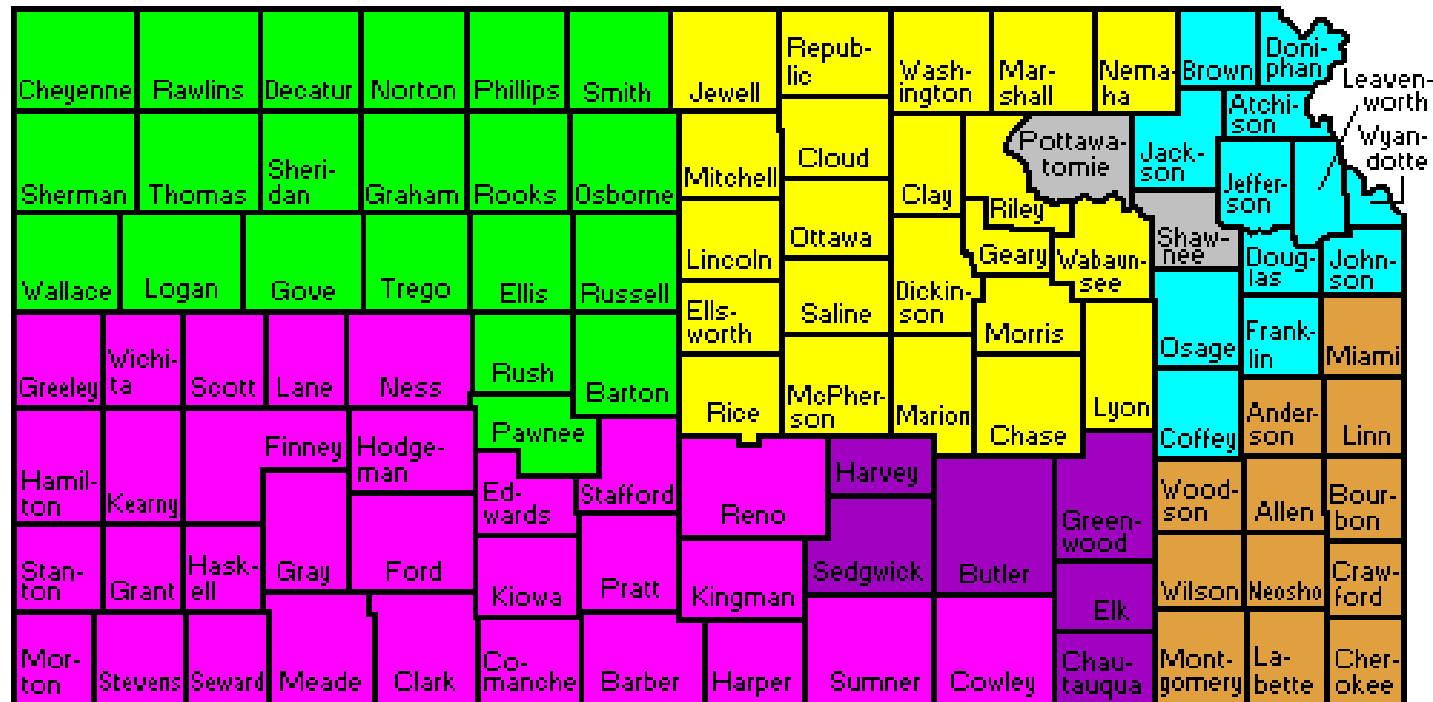
- Aging related and other

KGP Regional Map

Serves individuals state-wide

- 7 field staff
- 2 support staff
- 1 executive director

Offices: Manhattan, Kansas City, Wichita



Alternatives – Less Restrictive

Informal community interventions (family/friends, bill payment assistance)

Social service involvement through DCF, KDADS, ADRC, CDDO, etc.

Social Security, Veterans Administration payee

Durable Power of Attorney for Finances and/or Health Care

Supported Decision-Making Leg Intro (stand alone or used with G approval)

Voluntary Conservatorship

Guardianship or Conservatorship with guardianship or conservatorship plan

Full Guardianship or Conservatorship

DEFINITIONS

Ward

A person found by a decision of the court to be unable to manage physical health and safety

Guardian

A person appointed by the court to act on behalf of another person

Conservatee

A person found by a decision of the court to be unable to manage personal property and financial resources

Conservator

An adult appointed by the court to manage financial resources and estate

Representative Payee

SSA designation of a person (or an approved organization) who receives SSA BENEFITS on behalf of another person

TYPES OF GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP

Guardianship

Conservatorship

Voluntary Conservator

Minor - Minor with an impairment

Temporary Guardian or Conservator

Successor Guardian or Conservator

Standby Guardian or Conservator

Co-Guardian or Co-Conservator

Procedures from Petition to Appointment

Kansas law intends to provide for orderly legal and judicial procedures that ensure the rights of proposed wards or conservatees.

Some of these procedures are especially designed to safeguard the rights of minors, others are for those who may need voluntary conservatorships, while still others are to give due process to those who may become "an adult with an impairment in need of a guardian or conservator."

Procedures from Petition to Appointment

Petition

Mandatory Orders

Examination and Evaluation

Notices

Trial

Findings

Oath of Guardianship or Conservatorship

Bond of Conservatorship (if one is appointed)

Basic Instructional Program for Guardians or Conservators

Letters of Guardianship or Conservatorship

Conservator Inventory

A friend is to the lonely what sunshine is to a flower



Become A Volunteer in the
Kansas Guardianship Program
Serve as a Court Appointed Guardian or Conservator

KGP

1-800-672-0086 www.ksprog.org

Volunteers Needed

Who are our volunteers?

- Kansas Citizens who have:
 - The desire to advocate for others
 - Willingness to visit a fellow citizen
 - Ability to work independently

What would our volunteer receive?

- Ongoing support from KGP
- Assistance with annual court reports
- A small monthly stipend

I AM INTERESTED IN HELPING KGP BY

I am interested in helping the KGP BY:



- ___ Becoming a volunteer with the KGP
- ___ Providing names of individuals in my community or other communities throughout the State who may be interested in volunteering
- ___ Helping arrange for a presentation by KGP with my church or other community organization
- ___ Placing “Volunteers Needed” leaflet in my church or other community organization newsletters, bulletins, etc.